

December 31, 1951

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Dear Bruce:

First, Esther and I want to extend our very best wishes for a happy and profitable 1952.

The business of this letter is to ask whether you could in any way be induced to extend your leave of absence for a year in order to work with us. I don't need to enumerate the many places where our interests are likely to meet, and of which I would imagine the joint exploration would be a great deal of fun. If the financial aspects are critical, I think I can promise now a temporary staff appointment at a salary comparable to the run of American post-doctoral fellowship stipends. Our space conditions so far have been miserable, but there are two ameliorating factors: most of my students are graduating, and are not likely to be directly replaced, and barring catastrophe our laboratory should be enlarged by the time you get here. Norton has probably told you about the general atmosphere. I can't tell you how pleased we would be if this arrangement could be worked out-- won't you lean over to give it the most favorable consideration permitted by your personal circumstances? Let me know what your requirements (financial or otherwise) would be, from our part, if the idea is at all feasible.

Entirely aside from, or in spite of, all this, when are you going to visit us? How are your filtration experiments with the pneumococcus system working out?

There are two aspects of the biology of *Salmonella* flagella that I have been curious to find more on-- perhaps you could help. The first is this business of the suppression of flagella by growth on phenolated agar, with subsequent resoration on normal medium. There is a 1919 paper by Braun & Schäffer, but nothing very instructive on the possible mechanism. The second has to do with the H-specific phages discovered by Sertic, and casually studied by M.L. Rakieten (at L.I. Med., Brooklyn). I haven't been able to evoke any response from Rakieten; someone closer might be able to. Anyway, do you know anything about such phages?

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg